EPA

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Water Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding (i.e., PCS)

Transaction Code		NPDES	yr/mo/day	Inspection Type	Inspector	Fac Type
1 N	2 5	3 WAU000486 11 (4-12-2010)	12 100330 17	18 =	19 J R	20 3

Remarks

21 | | 66

Inspection Work Days	Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating	BI	QA	Reserved	
67 5.0 69	70	71	72	73 74	75 80

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected *(For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number)*	Entry Time/Date	Permit Effective Date
Clearbrook Holsteins 9451 Swanson Road Sumas, Washington 98295	9:45AM/03/30/10	—
	Exit Time/Date: 11:45AM/03/30/10	Permit Expiration Date: —

Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s)
Arlyn Visser, Owner and Operator
[redacted]

Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number
Same as above.
Contacted ☑ Yes ☐ No

Other Facility Data *(e.g., SIC NAICS, and other descriptive information)*
SIC = 0241
Unpermitted

RECEIVED
APR 12 2010
U.S. EPA REGION 10
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection *(Check only those areas evaluated)*

☐ Permit	☑ Self-Monitoring Program	☐ Pretreatment	☐ MS4
☑ **Records/Reports**	☐ Compliance Schedules	☐ Pollution Prevention	
☑ Facility Site Review	☐ Laboratory	☐ Storm Water	
☑ Effluent/Receiving Waters	☑ Operations & Maintenance	☐ Combined Sewer Overflow	
☐ Flow Measurement	☐ Sludge Handling/Disposal	☐ Sanitary Sewer Overflow	

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments
(Attach additional sheets of narrative and checklists, including Single Event Violation codes, as necessary)

SEV Codes — SEV Description

See the attached report.

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s)	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date
Joseph S. Roberto [signature]	EPA/OCE/206-553-1669	04/12/10
Dustan Bott	EPA/OCE/206-553-5502	

Signature of Management Q A Reviewer	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date
[signature]	EPA/OCE 3-0955	4/13/10

EPA Form 3560-3 (Rev 1-06) Previous editions are obsolete.

PCS WAU000486

PCS. 4-12-2010

NPDES
Inspection Report

Clearbrook Holsteins
Sumas, Washington

March 30, 2010

Prepared by:
Joe Roberto, Environmental Engineer
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Office of Compliance and Enforcement
Inspection and Enforcement Management Unit

Table of Contents

(Unless otherwise noted, all details in this inspection report were obtained from conversations with Arlyn Visser or from observations during the inspection.

This inspection report includes a photograph documentation attachment (attachment B) as well as three aerial photographs (attachments A, C and D). Attachment A is an aerial photograph that shows the entire facility. Attachments C and D are aerial photographs which focus on the two separate confinement areas at this facility (the main facility and the leased property). Attachments C and D also identify the photograph number, direction and location for each photograph included in the photograph documentation attachment (attachment B)).

I. Facility Information

Facility Name:	Clearbrook Holsteins
Facility Type:	Dairy (SIC 0241)
Facility/Mailing Address:	9451 Swanson Road Sumas, Washington 98295 Whatcom County
Facility Phone #s:	(b) (6) (office) (b) (6) (cell)
Facility Contact(s):	Arlyn Visser (Owner and Operator)

II. Inspection Information

Inspection Date:	March 30, 2010
Arrival Time:	9:45 AM
Departure Time:	11:15 AM
Weather:	Overcast
Purpose:	Determination of compliance with the Clean Water Act

III. Permit Information

This facility is not currently covered by an NPDES permit.

IV. Background and Activity

According to Arlyn Visser, (b) (6) has operated this dairy since approximately 1962. Mr. Visser also said that he has owned this facility himself since 1994.

This dairy consists of two adjacent confinement areas; the main facility which is on land owned by Mr. Visser and located at 9451 Swanson Road and a leased property located at 9506 Swanson Road. The main facility is the portion of the dairy where milking cows, heifers and calves are confined fed and maintained. It is also the portion of the dairy where cows are milked. This portion of the dairy also includes two below ground manure pits, a solids separator, waste storage lagoon, silage bunker, and adjacent pastures.

The leased property is the portion of the dairy where dry cows are confined, fed and maintained. This portion of the dairy includes a manure pit, waste storage lagoon, silage bunker and adjacent pastures.

The owned and leased portions of the dairy are connected due to their proximity to each other. They are adjacent properties which are divided by Swanson Road. See attachment A for details regarding the locations of these portions of the dairy.

In addition, the waste storage systems at these properties are connected. A pipeline connects the waste storage lagoon at the main facility to the waste storage lagoon at the leased property. This pipeline gives the operator the flexibility to transfer wastewater back and forth between the waste storage lagoons as needed.

The waste generated at this facility is mainly manure and urine deposited in the barn areas. This facility is designed such that the wastes generated are collected, stored and then ultimately land applied on more than 273 acres of adjacent pastures.

The inspection of this dairy is part of EPA Region 10's concentrated animal feeding operation initiative.

See attachments A, B, C, and D for details on the facility components.

V. Individuals Present

The inspectors present throughout this inspection included Joe Roberto (EPA), Dustan Bott (EPA), and Kurt Niemeyer (Washington State Department of Agriculture).

The facility representative present during the inspection was Arlyn Visser.

VI. Inspection Entry

This was an unannounced inspection. Upon arriving at the facility, Dustan Bott and I presented our credentials and explained the purpose of the visit to Arlyn Visser.

Mr. Visser did not deny us access to the facility. We were allowed to inspect all areas that we wished to inspect.

VII. Inspection Chronology

Upon arriving at the facility we began the inspection with an opening conference where we discussed the purpose and expectations of the inspection. Following the opening conference, I interviewed Mr. Visser about operations at the facility.

We then conducted a facility tour where we inspected the confinement areas, waste storage facilities, land application areas and receiving waters.

We concluded the inspection with a closing conference where I discussed the areas of concern I identified during the inspection.

VIII. Owner and Operator Information

According to Arlyn Visser, he owns and operates the dairy.

IX. Number of Animals

According to Mr. Visser, this facility houses a total of approximately 460 animals including 250 milking and dry cows and 210 heifers and calves. Of these animals approximately 70 were confined at the leased property on the day of the inspection.

X. Presence of Vegetation in the Confinement Areas

The confinement areas at this facility consist of barns with concrete floors. I did not see any vegetation in any of the confinement areas.

XI. Length of Animal Confinement

Cattle confined at the main facility are kept in the barns throughout the year.

The cattle confined on the leased property have access to pasture between approximately April and October and are confined in the barns the remainder of the year.

XII. Waste Management Process

Waste generated at this facility is mainly from the barns where the animals are confined. The operation of the main facility is such that the wastes generated in the barn complex are scraped to one of two below ground manure pits. The wastes in the pits are then routed to a solids separator. The separated liquids are routed to the waste storage lagoon for long term storage until it can be land applied. The separated solids are stored on site until they are exported offsite by raspberry farmers.

The operation of the confinement area on the leased property is such that the wastes generated in the barns are scraped to a below ground manure pit. The waste in the manure pit is then pumped to the waste storage lagoon for long term storage until it can be land applied.

See attachments A, B, C, and D for details regarding the waste management process at this facility.

XIII. Observed Discharge

I did not see any wastewater, from this facility, enter nearby surface waters at the time of this inspection.

XIV. Receiving Water

The nearest surface waters to this facility are drainage ditches that drain to Johnson Creek. These ditches are located adjacent to land application pastures at the facility.

XV. Sample Collection and Analyses

I did not collect any samples at the time of this inspection.

XVI. Areas of Concern

We inspected the facility including the confinement areas and the waste handling systems. I saw two areas of concern at the time of the inspection. These areas of concern are described as follows:

A. Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Update At the time of the inspection, Mr. Visser produced the NMP for his facility. I asked when the NMP was last updated and he said that he has not had to update the plan in the past eight years. Kurt Niemeyer then asked if the addition of the solids separator was incorporated into the NMP. Mr. Visser said that the solids separator was added approximately two years ago and that the NMP does not reflect its addition.

The addition of the solids separator has likely altered the waste characteristics of the land applied waste and the waste handling system at this facility. As a result, the concern is that the NMP does not currently reflect the waste management practices at this facility.

I identified this as an area of concern to Mr. Visser at the time of the closing conference of the inspection.

B. Silage Drainage from the Leased Property While inspecting the silage bunker on the leased property I saw drainage emanating from the south side of the silage bunker. This drainage flowed in a southeasterly direction down a hill and through a grassy area toward a drainage ditch located just east of the lagoon (on this leased property). See photograph #s 8 to 12 of attachment B and attachment D for details of this silage drainage.

Note that the drainage from the silage bunker appeared to be channeled and directed away from the silage bunker. I told Mr. Visser that this silage drainage was an area of concern. He responded by saying that this drainage is typically handled by a tile drain which routes silage drainage into the waste storage lagoon, however, this drain was not allowing the silage drainage to drain quickly enough. He also said that he is working with the land owner to repair the tile drain.

Although I did not see this drainage enter the nearby ditch at the time of the inspection, the concern is that this drainage could enter this ditch during a rainfall event and ultimately flow into Johnson Creek.

XVII. Closing Conference

The closing conference was held on March 30, 2010. The individuals present were the inspection team members (Joe Roberto, Dustan Bott, and Kurt Niemeyer) and Arlyn Visser. During the closing conference I discussed the areas of concern identified above.

Report Completion Date: 04/13/10

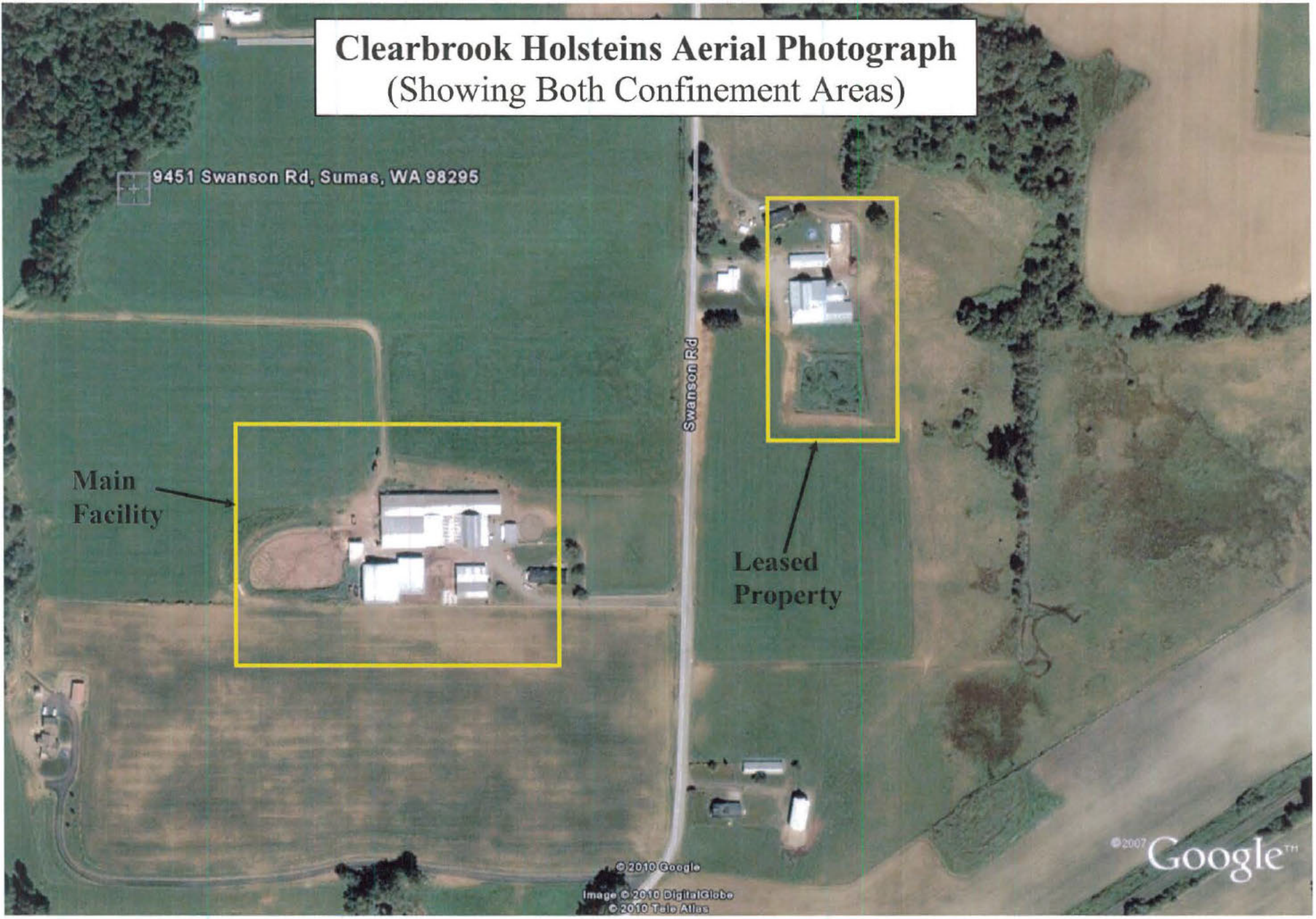
Lead Inspector Signature: Josh S. Bott

ATTACHMENT A

Aerial Photograph Showing Both Confinement Areas

Clearbrook Holsteins

Clearbrook Holsteins Aerial Photograph
(Showing Both Confinement Areas)



ATTACHMENT B

Photograph Documentation

(All photographs were taken by Dustan Bott on March 30, 2010)

Clearbrook Holsteins

Photo #1: View of the sign at the main facility entrance.

Photo #2: View in the vicinity of one of the below ground manure pits at the main facility of the dairy. Wastes entering this pit are pumped to another below ground pit before it is routed to a solids separator.

Photo #3: View in the vicinity of the second below ground manure pit at the main facility of the dairy. The contents of this pit are pumped to the solids separator.

Photo #4: View of the solids separator at the main facility.

Photo #5: Easterly view showing the waste storage lagoon at the main facility.

Photo #6: View of the entrance to the barn on the leased property. The below ground manure pit is located in the foreground of this photograph.

Photo #7: Southeasterly view of the waste storage lagoon on the leased property.

Photo #8: Northerly view showing the silage bunker on the leased property. Note the runoff in the vicinity of the bunker. Also note the channel routing runoff from the area of the bunker.

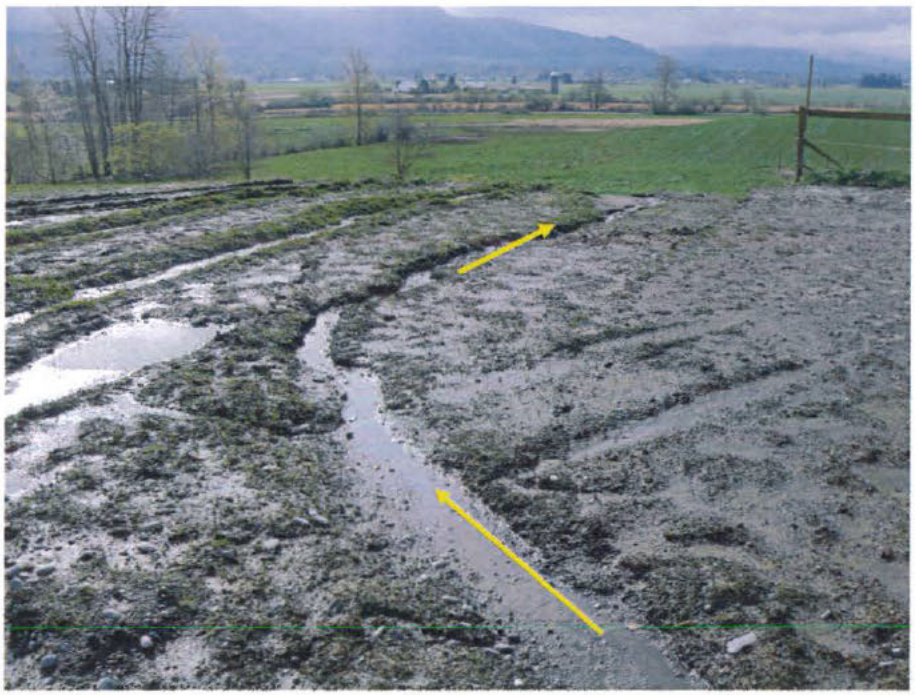


Photo #9: Southerly view showing the runoff channel routing runoff from the vicinity of the silage bunker (located on the leased property). The silage bunker is located behind the photographer. This runoff channel continues down a hill on to nearby pastures. See the next photograph for further details of this runoff pathway.

Photo #10: Northerly view showing the runoff channel routing liquid from the vicinity of the silage bunker (on the leased property). The silage bunker is located just over this hill. See the previous two photographs for additional details.

Photo #11: Northwesterly view showing the barn (on the leased property) in the background and the runoff channel in the foreground. This channel starts from the area of the silage bunker located to the right of the barn area.

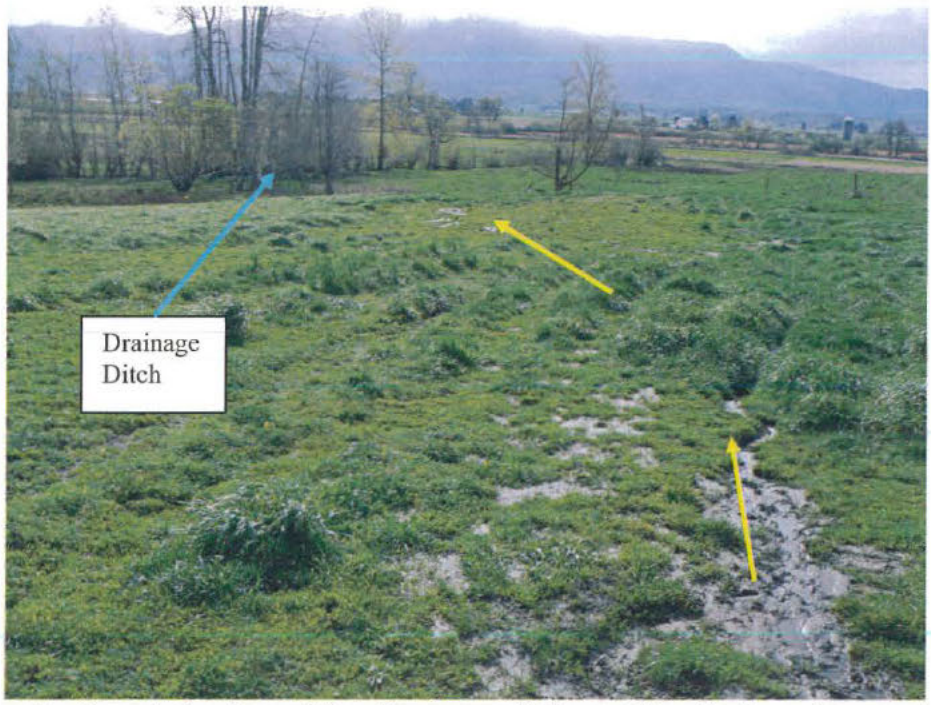


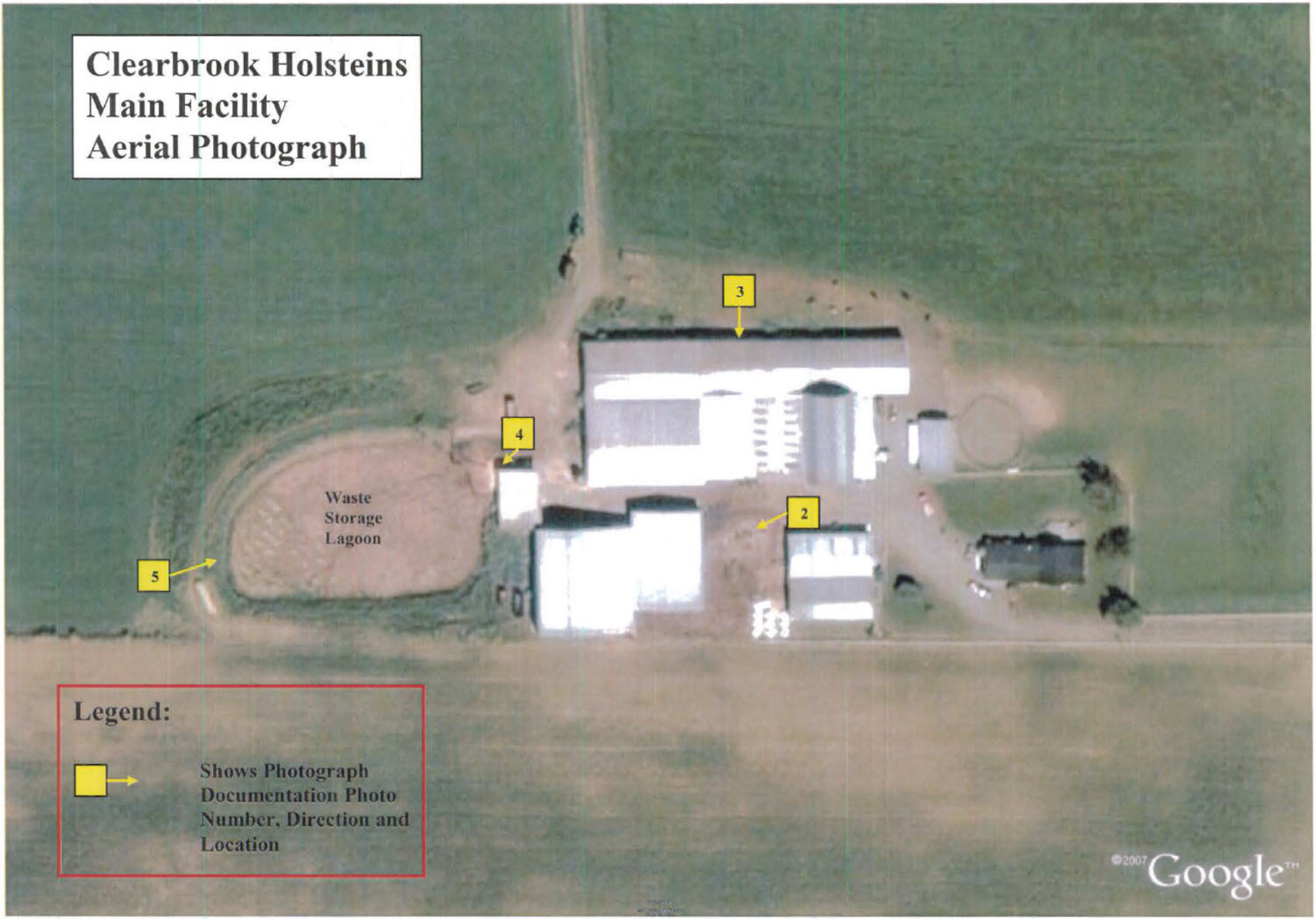
Photo #12: Southeasterly view of the silage runoff channel (on the leased property) leading toward the direction of a ditch which ultimately connects with Johnson Creek.

ATTACHMENT C

Aerial Photograph Showing the Main Facility

Clearbrook Holsteins

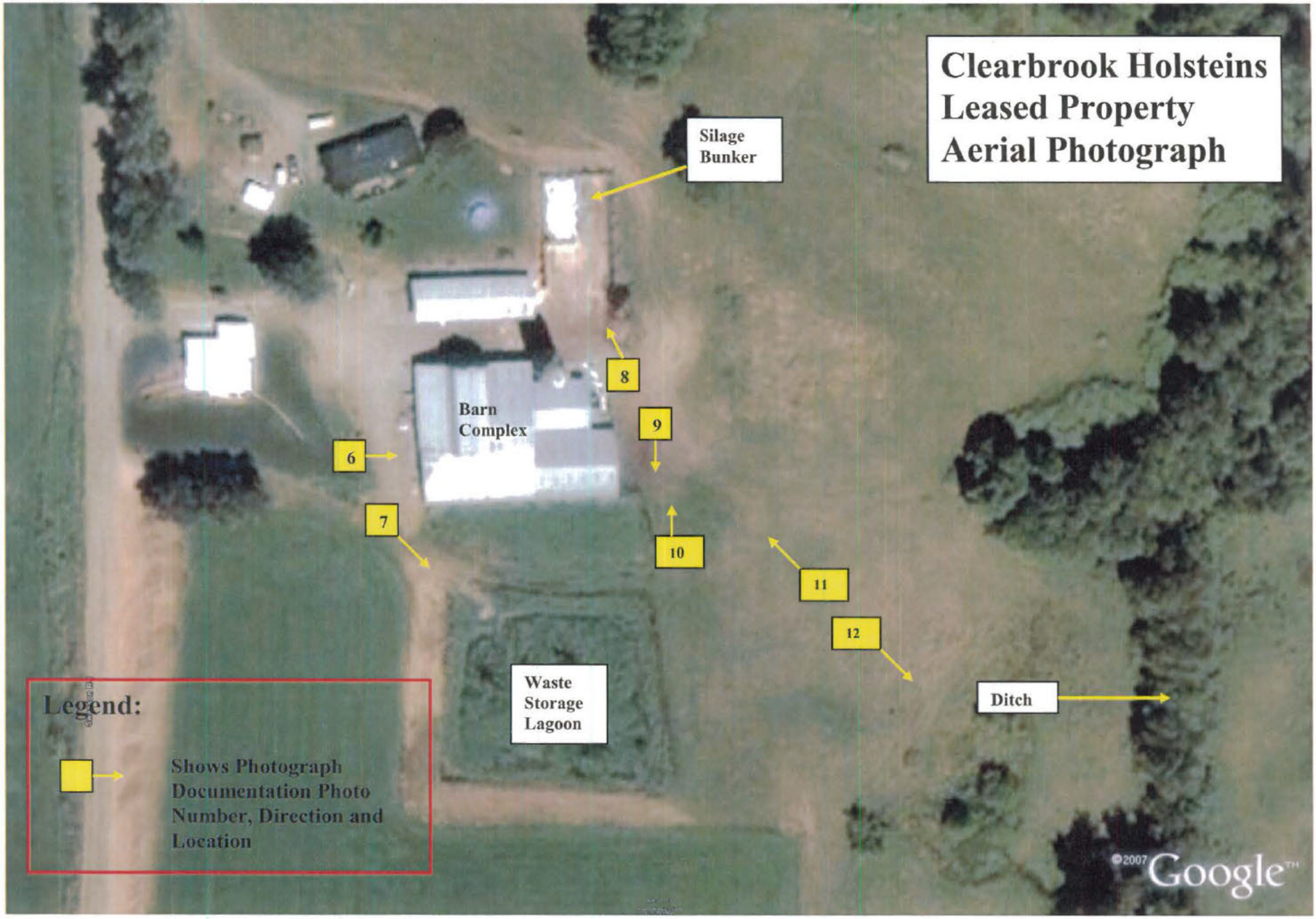
Clearbrook Holsteins
Main Facility
Aerial Photograph



ATTACHMENT D

Aerial Photograph Showing the Leased Property

Clearbrook Holsteins


Clearbrook Holsteins
Leased Property
Aerial Photograph
Silage Bunker
Barn Complex
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
Waste Storage Lagoon
Ditch
Legend:
Shows Photograph Documentation Photo Number, Direction and Location
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